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#E1-635  
RJ

February 24, 2004

Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20423-0001  
Attention: Rini Ghosh  
Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

received  
2/25/04

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects including no quarry and no rail line at all.

Although I live and work in San Antonio, I frequently spend weekends at our ranch in eastern Medina County (a few miles from the proposed rail line and quarry.) I am very concerned about the impact of the proposed rail line on the quality of life in that part of the county which is primarily rural/agricultural. We are on the direct migration routes of many types of songbirds which seek water and nesting sites there. The noise, vibration and air pollution involved would surely have a negative impact on several already threatened species of birds such as the golden cheeked warbler, the black capped vireo, and the scissortail, to name a few.

I also urge an EIS of the present condition of surrounding wells and septic tanks. I am also very concerned about the impact on the Edwards Aquifer since Vulcan is planning to mine to a depth of 200-250 feet. Pollution of our wells and of the Aquifer would be devastating to both humans and wildlife alike.

I am particularly concerned about air pollution in what is now one of the cleanest areas in the state. My parents and sister have suffered from asthma, and we're worried about limestone dust both from the quarry and from the loaded railroad cars. Prevailing southeasterly winds would carry that dust directly over our property.

I believe that an adequate Environmental Impact Statement will identify the many problems inherent in the proposed railroad spur and limestone quarry in eastern Medina County. Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

  
Bret Bigelow

cc: U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, Texas Sen. Frank Madla,  
Texas Rep. Timoteo Garza, Medina County Judge Jim Barden, Medina County  
Commissioner Royce Hartman